

September 21, 1999

SEP 23 1999

Mr. Lester Snow
Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 9th Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA, 95814
Attention: Mr. Rick Breitenbach

Subject: Comments on CALFED Phase II Report and Draft
Programmatic EIS/EIR

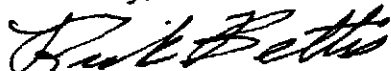
Dear Mr. Snow:

CALFED should be commended for considering and attempting to balance the many competing interests during its' planning process. However, I wish to convey the following comments:

1. I believe there should be greater emphasis on water conservation and efficiency. The projected savings of 1.4 million acre feet in agricultural water use appears low and I believe this could be increased by a factor of three to four at a minimum. Any increased costs in food products should be small and I believe to be justified by the environmental and quality of life benefits.
2. Any commitment to new dams and reservoirs should be deferred, and should be subject to rigorous environmental assessment. In addition, it is imperative that such facilities be clearly shown to be economically justified relative to alternatives such as conservation and groundwater management.
3. Watershed and riparian area restoration should be higher priority and increased funding. These actions will provide both water quality and yield benefits.
4. Greater emphasis should be given to the technical, legal, and institutional aspects of groundwater management, and conjunctive use of ground and surface water.
5. Water recycling and reuse should be afforded increased attention, with respect to both the solution of technical constraints and public awareness and education.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Rick Bettis
Consulting Civil Engineer
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Sacramento, CA 95814